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United Methodist Church of Parsippany

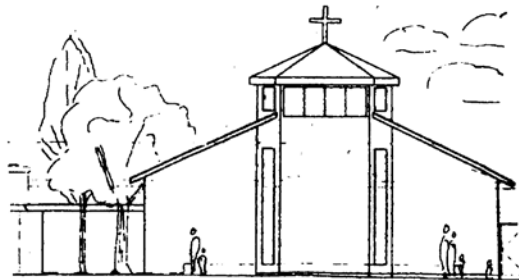
903 So. Beverwyck Road, Parsippany, NJ 07054 (973) 887-4657

http://www.parsippanyumc.org E-Mail: jeffedwards1955@gmail.com

Sunday Worship Celebration: 10:00 a.m.

In a hostile, hurting world we reach out to share kindness and laughter. Our spirituality is based on Jesus and his love and compassion. We provide a community of support and healing where all are welcomed and valued regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, disability, gender, or economic status. In a world where people feel they can love only those who are like themselves, we seek to celebrate the uniqueness of every human being.

"Making Room in the Circle"



OCTOBER, 2018

On Saturday, September 29th at 11 a.m. a memorial service for John Cogan, twin brother of Justin Cogan, will be held in our sanctuary. The United Methodist Women will host a reception following.

On September 30th our church will have a table at the **Parsippany Street Festival** from 12 to 5 p.m.

October 7th Students from the **Allegro Academy** perform throughout our worship.

October 7th Our youth (grades 8 through 12) will meet following worship to plan service projects.



HAM DINNER - Saturday - October 13, 4 to 7 p.m. We'll need help for this major fundraiser. Help is needed to set up, serve, work in the kitchen and clean up. Please see Barb Bradley or Connie Keller if you're interested in lending a hand. **We also need homemade CAKES to serve for dessert.**

Prices are:

Adults: \$15, Sr. Citizens: \$11, Children 6-12 - \$6

Doris Bradley has tickets you can buy, or tickets you can sell to your friends!



HAPPY APPLE BAZAAR – Saturday, November 3rd --- 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We're planning to have our usual jewelry, scarves and hats, bakery, and books. **The rest will be garage sale, hopefully by a few members who would like to sell some stuff! Small things can be contributed and will be sold at the church table.** Look for further info at church. Speak to Barb or Connie if you would like to participate. **We'll need homemade bakery and gently used jewelry for this event as well.**



Our **annual Church Conference** will be held **Wednesday, October 24th at 8 p.m.** (Note this is a change of date from what was originally scheduled.) Our district superintendent Steve Bechtold will be on hand to lead us as we elect officers, review the year and look ahead, and worship God. This will be Steve's last Church Conference with us as his term ends in June of 2019.

The **Reconciling Ministries Network** works within the United Methodist Church to advocate on behalf of full inclusion of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender people in the life of the church. Enthusiasm was expressed at our all-church brainstorming session held in May for our congregation taking the step of officially becoming a "Reconciling Congregation." Unfortunately, far too often GLB&T persons have experienced a painful rejection from Christian Churches. As expressed in our mission statement of twenty-five years our congregation has a longstanding tradition of being welcoming and affirming of persons regardless of sexual orientation. Consequently, the primary significance of taking this step would be for our congregation to publicly align ourselves with the Reconciling Movement.

The motivation to take this step at this time arises in large part by the fact that the worldwide United Methodist Church has been deeply divided over this issue. At the upcoming special General Conference in February of 2019 critical decisions will be made regarding official UMC policies effecting the inclusion of GLB&T persons. **An anonymous straw poll was held at the end of worship on June 10th and the results were overwhelmingly positive in regards to taking this step. At this point our tentative plan is to take an official vote at our annual church conference with our district superintendent present.**

If any of you have concerns regarding this move I would be happy to meet with you privately to discuss them. It is very important to me that in proceeding with this vote that people have the opportunity to express their concerns and feel that they have been truly listened to.

In the Spirit of Christ our Lord,
Pastor Jeff



A sermon preached on September 9th, 2018 – the first Sunday after Labor Day – based upon Mark 7:24-30.

With the passing of Labor Day this week many of us -- myself included -- find ourselves having to let go of the slower pace of summer in order to take on the faster pace of Fall. If you were fortunate to have had the opportunity to take some relaxed vacation time it may feel like you've just shifted from first to fourth gear perhaps especially if your life revolves around children and the sudden pressure to get them up out the door to school, as well as to the various extra-curricular activities that start back up.

Life comes at us so fast. We can suddenly feel like the circus performer who dashes about keeping a dozen spinning plates aloft.

We find ourselves resisting this sudden thrust into the faster pace. Can't we go back to sitting by the ocean?

Aware of this longing in myself, I was struck by our Gospel lesson this morning -- actually by the whole Gospel of Mark. It is the Gospel that seems to most recognize how fast life comes at us. With barely more than 15 chapters it is the shortest of the four Gospels but the word "immediately" occurs a remarkable 40 times. *Immediately this happens, then immediately that happens.*



Early on we see Jesus attempting to slow the pace down. He goes off by himself early in the morning to pray, only to have his solitude invaded by his disciples who have come hunting for him. Even Jesus can't seem to hold off the relentless pace at which life comes at us. He tries to go off with his disciples in a boat for a time of rest and reflection in the wilderness but a crowd of needy 5000 people "immediately" meet him as he comes to the shore interrupting their plans.

When life speeds up, as it did for Jesus, it is hard to stave off an internal sense of hurry. It becomes hard to stay in the present moment. We find ourselves stuck in fourth gear seemingly incapable of downshifting.

And it seems to me this is what we see happening to Jesus in our Gospel story this morning. For many Christians this has been a problematic story. In the first part of the story it seems to me Jesus is undeniably rude to the Gentile woman who comes to him in need. The way he responds to her is -- dare we say -- "unchristian."

For me however this story simply shows that Jesus knows life as I experience it; as you experience it. When the pace of life in this world speeds up, it is hard to avoid taking this sense of being in a great hurry inside us.

There can be useful practices to try and slow the pace of our lives down. We can practice better time management. We can schedule into our calendar times for rest and prayer. Jesus does these things, but still he finds himself in the thick of life's unavoidable fast pace.

I thought about the various cartoons that show a holy man sublimely sitting on a mountaintop with the rare visitor who ascends to ask for his wisdom. Here's one I found on line. The woman asks, "What is the meaning of life?" To which he answers, "You do the hokie pokie and you turn yourself about and that's what it's all about."

The Jesus we get in Mark's Gospel is definitely not this kind of holy man. He is caught up in the rapid currents of life, and it wears him down. In this morning's story he has attempted once more to get away for a time of rest – to slow things down. He goes with his disciples into Gentile territory in the assumption that he will find some anonymity there. *"He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it;"* Mark tells us, *yet he could not keep his presence secret."*

He is attempting to schedule some rest into his busy schedule but as the old saying goes, "Life is what happens when you're making plans." This poor Gentile woman gets word that the famous healer Jesus is in her town. She has a very sick daughter so her love for her daughter compels her to go Jesus and prostrate herself before him to beg him to heal her daughter.

With all the different demands on his time, attention and energy that he has been encountering a sense of hurry has taken hold inside him even now that outwardly he need not be in a great hurry. He lashes out at the woman in what I think can not be interpreted as anything other than harsh and bigoted, indeed dare I say, "unchristian." He refuses her request, calling her a "dog" that isn't worthy of receive food of the children – that is, the Jewish people. In this moment, unlike the song I sung with the children this morning, Jesus' table definitely isn't the "welcome table."

For many Christians this passage is deeply troubling and attempts are made to give some explanation how Jesus isn't really as hard-hearted as he appears.

But for me in a strange way I find this story comforting because it tells me Jesus knows what life feels like for me a lot of the time. The fast pace at which life comes at me leads the hurry out there to take hold inside me. A kind of tunnel vision takes over me in which all I see is what I need to get accomplished in the future. I become irritable, experiencing the people I meet not as holy mysteries but rather as objects to be used or at least avoided.

A 4th century church father declared, "Hurry is of the devil." The 20th century depth psychologist Carl Jung took it a step further saying, "Hurry isn't of the devil; it is the devil." When we get caught up in hurry – when hurry takes hold of us inwardly, we harden our hearts.



I once heard about a study done at Princeton years ago. It was administered by the psychology department but it took place at the seminary. It involved a group of seminarians who were taking some kind of preaching class in which they were given a preaching assignment under time constraints. They were given an hour to prepare a sermon and then were given instructions to cross the campus to reach the chapel where at an appointed time they were to deliver the sermon. The text for the sermon was the famous parable of the Good Samaritan in which a man is left beaten, half dead at the side of the road by thieves. Three men come along the road – two religious professionals and one a despised foreigner – a Samaritan. The Samaritan is the only one who stops to help the man, putting him on his donkey and taking him to an inn, spending his own money on the man's care.

The message of the story doesn't require a Phd in theology: Show compassion to the hurting people you encounter in life.

In the study, an actor was hired to pretend to be in great distress near the path the seminarians would take to go to the chapel to deliver their sermon. Feeling the pressure of their time constraints, the majority of the seminarians did not stop to help the person in their distress.

That's what feeling like we're in a hurry does to us. It takes us out of the present moment as we focus on some future time when our present obligations will finally be met.

In our story this morning the woman is a positive example. She is very much in the present moment. She knows the one thing that matters in this moment, and that is getting help for her sick daughter. She has a humble spirit, and isn't going to let herself be distracted by the fact that in this moment Jesus uses a racial slur to address her. She is ready, as she says to receive whatever crumbs of grace that may fall from God's table.

My wife recently began keeping a gratitude journal, and this week I began to follow her example. It is a helpful thing to record those crumbs of grace that have fallen to us in the course of our busy lives. It is so easy to let them fall to us without really taking them to heart. Take note of enough crumbs and you've got yourself a heavenly banquet.

So it is helpful to me that Jesus knows what life can often feel like – the hardening of heart and deadening of spirit that can occur when we get caught up in the frantic pace with which life comes at us – the tense clutching to be in control when things aren't in our control that could well be described as the grasp of the devil.

And it is helpful to me to see Jesus get delivered from this bondage. Once more he becomes the one who invites us all to the "welcome table."

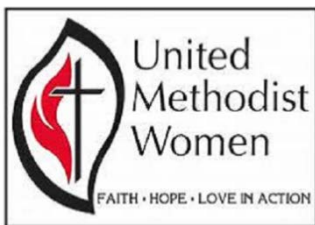
As helpful as a good vacation can be, in this instance Jesus finds this deliverance not by going on an extended vacation but rather by paying attention to the grace that is there in the present moment.

It is a remarkable thing that Jesus discovered this grace in the words and faith of a stranger, a foreigner, a woman. In that culture – indeed often in our own culture – many men simply wouldn't allow themselves to consider the possibility that a woman (or a foreigner) could have something to teach them because of their pride – one of the most basic forms of sin.

So in the end this story tells me that as much as we might find ourselves yearning to be able to spend our days sitting by the beach or on a mountaintop, life is lived in the midst of cross current of demands that are put upon us by being deeply involved with the world around us. We are here to be of service, and although we will invariably find ourselves in a place where the hurry out there has become internalized we don't have to stay in that place. In every moment the possibility exists to inwardly let go our tight hurried, grasp and open ourselves to God's loving presence right there with us in the very thick of things.

In the kindness of Jesus,
Pastor Jeff





Looking back... a nurse from the Visiting Nurse Association gave a talk on Caring for the Caregivers. It was an interesting presentation and those attending learned a lot. All women of the church are invited, and bring a friend.....

Wednesday, October 3 – 7:00 p.m.
PROGRAM: Rescue and Recovery
 Refreshments will be served

Oct. 8 – Columbus Day (Obs)	Oct. 31 - Halloween
Oct. 13 – Ham Dinner	

GET WELL wishes to those of you who are ill, and
 HAPPY BIRTHDAY to those of you celebrating this month with Diane Anastasi and June Schnetzer.

God Bless,
 Betsy Adams

Pastor Jeff is **writing the Christmas play**. If you would like to be involved in the production please speak to Pastor Jeff. The play will be produced three nights: December 14th, 15th, and 16th.

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Laity Sunday is a special Sunday established by the General Conference to be observed on the third Sunday in October. It focuses on the celebration of the ministry of all lay Christians. In many local churches, Laity Sunday is observed by having lay persons lead all parts of the worship service. PUMC will observe **Laity Sunday on October 14**. If you would like to participate in any of the many facets of leading the worship service, please see Bob Keller or you may contact him by calling 973-887-4384 or email keller4384@aol.com.

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CHURCH CALENDAR and SCHEDULING EVENTS

The church calendar on our website www.parsippanyumc.org has been updated. If you want to schedule an event, you need to look at the website calendar to see if the date is available. All requests for use of the church facilities need to be approved by the trustees, Connie Keller or Amy Gripp.



Our church website has recently been updated by Pastor Jeff, Justin Cogan and Eric Christiango. Check it out at ParsippanyUMC.org. There you can find all of Pastor Jeff's sermons and eulogies, as well as the sermons of Bob Keller. You can also find all the newsletters, as well as a calendar that gives the times of events held at the church. You can also find a little church history, a listing of all the plays we've produced at the church, and a summary of the various church fellowship and mission groups.

If you aren't presently on **Facebook**, consider joining with a secret identity so you can be a member of the Parsippany United Methodist Church Congregation Group and received day by day prayer concerns and announcements and other postings regarding the life of our church.

FACEBOOK LIVE – Pastor Jeff has recently done a few Facebook Live broadcasts of the service. We are looking for someone interested in helping with this endeavor. If you are interested in furthering the ministries of our church through Live broadcasts, please reach out to Pastor Jeff.

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On the second Thursday of every other month our church provides a meal for the people living temporarily at **Homeless Solutions**. If you would like to volunteer as a server, please speak to Laurie Wilken or Connie Wallace. If you would like to help cook speak Tom Albert or Justin Cogan. Our next opportunity to serve is **Thursday, October 11th**.

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Interfaith Furnishings - Once every three months our church provides volunteers to assist **Interfaith Furnishings** in transporting donated furniture to people living in Morris County who would not be able to otherwise furnish their homes. **Our next Saturday to serve is Saturday, November 17th**. Please speak to Bruce Letsch or Pastor Jeff if you would like to volunteer

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Newton Barreto offers **free math tutoring to elementary school children** on Thursdays at 5:15 p.m. at the Lake Hiawatha Library and on Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m. at the Van Buren Branch Library in Newark. Please speak to Newton if you would to join him in serving young people in need.

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On the fourth Sunday of every month at 3 p.m. **Fred Mendez** leads a **worship service in a Nursing Home in Montclair**. Please speak to Fred if you would like to accompany him.

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On the **third Thursday of every month** Pastor Jeff leads a **worship service at Troy Hills Center at 10:30 a.m.** If you would like to share in this ministry to the people living in a nursing home, please join us. Speak to Pastor Jeff, Pat Winz or Andee Mihalko if you would like more information. Our next service is **Thursday, October 18th**.

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Anyone aware of a **Prayer Concern** is invited to contact Doris Bradley at 973-887-3219 who will put the **Prayer Chain** into action. If Doris cannot be reached, please contact Pastor Jeff. If you would like to add your name to the people who receive the prayer chain, please speak to Betty Polen.

A day time men's discussion group with Pastor Jeff that meets on **Fridays at 1 p.m.** We discuss short readings or videos during the 90 minute sessions. Any men available in the day time are invited to join us.

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A gathering of men from our church meet together **every Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. at the Empire Diner** with Pastor Jeff for breakfast, conversation, and a concluding prayer. All men are welcome.

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To make it easier for the Congregation to keep up with their financial pledges to the Church, a **PayPal link has been added to the PUMC Homepage**. If you've never used PayPal before, it's an easy and secure way to send a payment over the Internet. You can use your bank account or a credit card to make your payment, and PayPal takes a small transaction fee. For more information or a quick demonstration on how to use this new tool, please speak with Justin Cogan.

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BORROWING CHURCH FURNITURE

We are very fortunate to have an honest and trusting congregation, and we are fortunate to be able to loan some tables and chairs to our church family as needed. Our supply of chairs is getting smaller and smaller and it is now necessary to keep a more accurate count of our equipment. Going forward if you would like to borrow chairs or tables from the church, please speak to one of the trustees. You will need to tell them what you are borrowing, how many of that item and when you will return the items. Our trustees are: Amy Gripp, Bob Laux, Connie Keller, Steve Blake, Tom Albert, Bill Gripp, and Ian Crawford. Thank you for your cooperation.

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Parsippany Emergency Food Pantry - Wes Sitgreaves has called to our attention the ongoing need of the Emergency Food Pantry in Parsippany in these difficult economic times. There are more and more families turning to the food pantry for help. You can bring your donations of non-perishable food items to the church any Sunday. Wes takes the food over as the bin gets filled up. Supermarket gift cards are also welcome - buy them from Betty Polen and raise money for the church at the same time!!! This is a very easy way to give back to the less-fortunate in our own township.



FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS – If you want to remember or honor a special occasion in your life by putting flowers on the altar, please get in touch with Connie Keller. You are certainly welcome at any time to place flowers on the altar. If you want an announcement in the bulletin, please call Connie Keller or send her an email with the dedication. Contact information: Connie's cell: 973-568-5404; home: 973-887-4384; email: connie@mhmlender.com



Consider becoming a part of one or more of our Musical Groups here at church:

Bell Choir – rehearses Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining us, please speak to Barb Bradley or Aimee Letsch - or just show up on Thursday and see what happens!

Choir – rehearses Thursdays at 7:45 p.m. We always have an "open robe" for anyone who loves to sing. We sing in 4-part harmony, so if you've sung in your high school chorus or any other equivalent, you have a great start! Speak to any choir member or Barb Bradley if you're interested.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR OCTOBER

<u>Oct 7</u>	<u>Oct. 14</u>	<u>Oct. 21</u>	<u>Oct. 28</u>
Job 1:1;2:1-10	Job 23:1-9,16-17	Job 38:1-7	Job 42:1-6,10-17
Hebrews 1:1-4;2:5-12	Hebrews 4:12-16	Hebrews 5:1-10	Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 10:2-16	Mark 10:17-31	Mark 10:35-45	Mark 10:46-52



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS			
1 st	Betsy O'Grady	12 th	Abigail Dadaian
1 st	Tyler Mortensen	12 th	Madilynn Dadaian
3 rd	Linda Routhier	14 th	Jahn Schnetzer
5 th	Spandan Patel	16 th	Mark Chauhan
6 th	Diane Anastasi	18 th	Donroy Gounaud
8 th	June Schnetzer	19 th	Brenden Laux
9 th	Jean Montecuollo	23 rd	Devin Bradley
9 th	Charles Nye	24 th	Carrie Correale
10 th	Keith Hawkins	25 th	Kathy Isaacks
10 th	Mae Lange	26 th	Muriel Christal
11 th	Bert Morris	30 th	Alyssa Letsch
12 th	Nicole Dadaian		

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES	
10 th	Kathy & Henry Isaacks
17 th	Rev. Jeff & Sarah Edwards
19 th	Jim & Karen Steen

On September 23rd our church rejoiced to receive three new members:



Penny Beil is at home in Parsippany having grown up here, graduating from Parsippany High School. She received a bachelor's degree in social work from Seton Hall University, followed by a graduate degree in the same field from New York University. Putting her education to good use Penny worked for many years with SERV in Union County. Penny is presently exploring new options for employment. Her dream is to support herself through running her own business. Consequently, Penny founded Sunflower Scrap Book Studio, a creative arts company focusing on distinctive handmade greeting cards, made to order shadow boxes and special occasion scrap books. Penny grew up and was confirmed in the United Methodist Church of Montville and comes to us by way of transfer of membership. In her time among us Penny is grateful that she "has always felt welcome."

In her spare time, Penny enjoys reading mystery books, Christian novels and non-fiction. She also enjoys British TV mystery shows and collecting angel figurines. Penny is being sponsored by Anna Christal who has been her friend for over forty years.



Fred Mendez lives in Parsippany and has spent practically his entire life living in New Jersey. Significant people in his life include his grown son, his mom and step-dad, two aunts, a brother and a sister, and many siblings in our Christian faith. He holds a master's degree from Princeton Theological Seminary and once worked in professional ministry. Over the years Fred has been employed in a variety of settings including working with computers, office work, communications, public education and in the mental health field. In his spare time Fred likes to be involved in lay ministry, read the Bible, be present to friends and family, keep up with current events, ride his bike and hike the trails and walk the dogs, read novels, listen to music and watch movies, sing, and write a few sentences of reflection. He appreciates our church for the "lessons from leaders in love and the profound push he receives now and then." When invited to share a piece of wisdom he has learned over the years,

Fred responded "Many people, myself included, have tried to be or look bigger than they are. It is better to learn how to love our small but very real selves, for God surely does." Fred began attending our church when Pastor Jeff recruited him to play a major part in last year's Christmas Play. He is transferring his membership from the Bloomingdale Park United Methodist Church in Bloomfield.



Pauline Vande Vrede was born in Parsippany but grew up in Clifton. The most important people in her life are her husband Ron, her daughter Megan, and her two grandsons Andrew and Dylan. After marrying Ron, Pauline lived briefly in Paterson before moving to Lake Hiawatha and then across town to the Troy Hills section of Parsippany. During the course of her life Pauline has worked as a cashier, a computer operator and programmer, as a calligrapher and a "Stampin' Up" demonstrator. In her spare time Pauline enjoys rubber stamping, card making and scrapbooking, zentangle, and square dancing which sometimes involves another activity Pauline enjoys: camping. Pauline appreciates the "friendly, warm and welcoming" atmosphere she finds in our church. When asked for

piece of advice for a young person, Pauline said, "Enjoy the moment. Don't wish away your life." Pauline comes to us by way of transfer of membership from the Parsippany Presbyterian Church.

Autumn

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- PUMPKIN
- PEAR
- SCARECROW
- MAZE
- RED
- CORN
- BROWN
- COLORS
- MAPLE TREE
- SWEATER
- APPLE
- HARVEST
- OCTOBER
- FALL
- RAKE
- ORANGE
- ORCHARD
- WHEAT



PROVERBS 25:21

October 2018

United Methodist Church of Parsippany

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																								
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28 10:00 AM Worship Parsippany Street Festival 12-5	29	30 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast	31 	<table border="1" style="margin: 0 auto; border-collapse: collapse; background-color: #ffff00;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Sep 2018</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" style="margin: 0 auto; border-collapse: collapse; background-color: #ffff00;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Nov 2018</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Sep 2018							S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30							Nov 2018							S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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